

Minutes of the EMC General Meeting January 14, 2008

Voting Members Present (9): Martha Ferger, Kariann Mackie-Cunningham, Jim McGarry, Michael Miles, Tony Nekut, Steve Nicholson, Amy Risen, Roger Segelken, Marissa Weiss

Voting Members Excused (7): Kenny Christianson, Neha Khanna, Dan Lamb, Stan Marcus, Larry Sharpsteen, Gary Stewart, Mark Whitmore

Voting Members Absent (3): Jacie Spoon, Lucia Tyler, Roger Yonkin

Non-Voting Member Excused (1): Carol Chock

Associate Members Present (3): Joyce Gerbasi, Peter Harriott, Dooley Kiefer

Guest Present: Roberta Dixon

Staff Present: Joan Jurkowich, Kathy Wilsea

Aurora Valenti, Tompkins County Clerk, administered the oath of office to reappointed members Amy Risen, Roger Segelken and Marissa Weiss prior to the meeting.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chair Amy Risen at 7:08 p.m.

Privilege of the Floor – There were no guests who wished to speak.

Changes to the Agenda – There were no changes to the agenda.

Introductions – Introductions were made around the room.

Election of Vice Chairs for 2009 – Due to lack of a quorum, this will be addressed at the February meeting.

2009 Goals – Joan Jurkowich, Deputy Commissioner of Tompkins County Planning Department, worked with members to review 2008 goals, select those that will carry over to 2009, and add new goals. List is attached.

2009 Committees – Committees were established and assigned goals. 2009 committees will be: Air Quality, Consumer Products, Education/Website, Energy, Environmental Review, Invasive Species, Unique Natural Areas Update, and Transportation. Signup sheets were circulated for committees and liaisons. Members who were not present tonight will be contacted about their committee choices, and associate members will be solicited.

Approval of Minutes – Due to lack of a quorum, approval of minutes was postponed to February. Final minutes are available on the EMC webpage: www.tompkins-co.org/emc.

Chair's Report – Amy Risen has arranged a speaker for the March meeting from Clean New York on the topic of control for toxic chemical exposure.

Staff Report – Kathy Wilsea reported that EMC members are welcome to attend Water Resources Council on 2/23, when their guest speaker will be Dave Matthews of Upstate Freshwater Institute. Kathy presented a gift to Steve Nicholson to thank him for six years of service as EMC Chair.

Member Items – Steve Nicholson announced new dates for the NYS Association of EMCs’ Conference on the Environment: November 13-15 in Watkins Glen. Dooley Kiefer said County Legislature committees have not been formed yet. Carol Chock was excused tonight, but asked Dooley to convey to members that she enjoyed serving on EMC in 2008, and will find out soon if she remains the liaison from the County Legislature for 2009. Dooley also reported that Westchester County has enacted a ban on vehicle idling. A copy of a newspaper article on the ban will be in the EMC Mail folder next month.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Department

Approved by Council on February 11, 2009

2009 Work Program Ideas

Policy Issues

- Address diesel idling [bus idling; stickers for idling vehicles; enhanced enforcement]
- Address dredging [Water Resources Council dredging committee]
- Address alternatives to Town of Lansing sewer plans
- Address sustainability and carbon credits
- Promote property tax credits for installing renewable energy systems
- Chemical policy reform
- Support expansion of expanded bottle bill

Projects

- Update the Unique Natural Areas Inventory (by 2010)
- Implement changes related to the Cities for Climate Protection report
- Implement action items from the Energy & Greenhouse Gas Emissions element of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan
- Prepare updated information on the County's solar panel and analyze data collected
- Prepare a guide on what's happening with solar power in the area
- Inventory and identify high priority areas for the control of invasive species (from Natural Features Focus Area Report)
- Establish a coordinated approach, with Cooperative Extension, for distributing invasive species information to landowners throughout identified high priority areas (from Natural Features Focus Area Report)
- Develop and distribute a list of popular landscaping plants and appropriate native species substitutions (from Natural Features Focus Area Report)
- Conduct a comprehensive "natural lawns and gardens" campaign, with Cooperative Extension, to limit the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer, and increase the use of native plants in landscaping. (from Natural Features Focus Area Report)
- Disposal of hazardous products, pharmaceuticals, computer components
- Forest Management

Programs

- Act as clearinghouse for information about alternative energy – wind and solar [list of contacts]
- Update website, including contact information for public, success stories

Member Services

- Prepare a guidebook for members

Additions

- Lake Source Cooling monitoring
- City of Ithaca water source
- Rancich wind farm
- Inlet Island development
- Ithaca College wind tower
- Community Action Plan for invasive pests
- Outdoor furnaces [Board of Health; require EPA certified furnaces; local ordinances]
- Traffic flow impacts on air quality
- Liaison to Cooperative Extension for consumer education on wood stoves